

61. (New) The method of claim 59, further comprising isolating said gene product prior to said screening in (c).

REMARKS

No new matter has been added by the foregoing amendment to the specification, which has been made solely to provide the application number for the priority application filed on March 26, 1999, which number was not available at the time of filing of the present application.

The foregoing amendments to the claims are fully supported in the specification as originally filed. Specifically, support for new claims 58-61 may be found in the specification at pages 6-17, at pages 38-44, at pages 50-53, at pages 57-61, at pages 68-118, and throughout the Examples. Accordingly, the foregoing amendments to the claims do not add new matter; their entry is therefore respectfully requested. Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 58-61 are pending in the present application.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for examination. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of the foregoing amendments, and entry of the same into the present application, are respectfully requested.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of

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this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

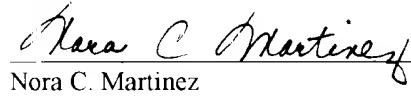


Anne Brown
Registration No. 36,463

ALSTON & BIRD LLP
P.O. Drawer 34009
Charlotte, NC 28234
Tel Raleigh Office (919) 420-2200
Fax Raleigh Office (919) 420-2260

"Express Mail" Mailing Label Number EL247263380US
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Nora C. Martinez